

Atty. Docket No. A7843
PATENT APPLICATION

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/601,384

REMARKS

Claims 2-10 and 50-66 are all the claims pending in the application, claims 61-66 being newly added.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's Response to Arguments provided in the pending Office Action. Applicant has thoroughly reviewed the claims in view of the Examiner's remarks and made substantial amendments in an earnest effort to advance prosecution of this case. Applicant believes that in view of these amendments, all of the pending claims are now allowable over the cited art or any combination thereof.

Claims Rejection

Claims 2-4, 6-10 and 54-60 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Minami (5,555,310). Applicant respectfully submits that Minami fails to anticipate the claims as amended. Notably, as explained in the previous Response filed on May 1, 2006, Minami fails to disclose or suggest the claimed synthetic aperture microphone processing. It is believed that the Examiner fully comprehends this point, but takes issue with the previous claiming of this feature. The claims have been amended to clearly and positively recite this feature. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now patentably distinguish from Minami.

Claims 5 and 50-53 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minami in view of Marash (5,825,898). With respect to claim 5, 50 and 51, the pending Office Action alleges that Minami teaches the limitations of the base claims. However, as discussed above with respect to the anticipation rejection, the base claims have now been amended to clearly distinguish over Minami. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5, 50 and

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51 are allowable at least due to their dependence from allowable base claims. As for claims 52 and 53, this rejection is made moot due to the subject amendment which changed the subject matter of these claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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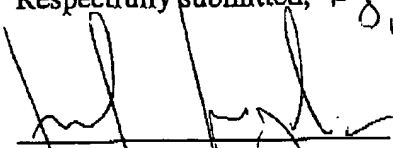
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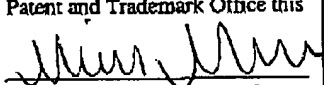
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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: November 6, 2006

Respectfully submitted, *Reg. No. 048,205*

for

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION
I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office this 6th day of November, 2006.

Monica Moreno